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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: Unknown (National Phase of International Application  
PCT/EP98/06225; filed September 30, 1998)  
Filed: March 29, 2001  
Applicant: Michael Kuhl et al.  
Title: **DEPTH MEASUREMENT AND DEPTH CONTROL OR  
AUTOMATIC DEPTH CONTROL FOR A HOLLOW TO BE  
PRODUCED BY A LASER PROCESSING DEVICE**  
Our Ref: BEET-03

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

March 29, 2001

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend  
the application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-26 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 27-52 as follows:

27. (NEW) Method for making a specifically formed hollow in a work piece by  
means of a laser machining apparatus which, in a layer-wise manner, removes  
material from the work piece in horizontal layers (S; xy) corresponding to the  
specific shape, wherein the depth (z) of the hollow is continuously measured,  
characterized in that

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FEB 06 2002

**TC 1700**